The Humble

PETITION

Of the Knights, Gentry, Clergy, and Commonalty of the County of *Sussex*;

Presented to both Houses on Wednesday, June. 7. 1648.

Together, with the Answer of both Houses to the same, *June*, 9. 1648.

To which are added

SOME OBSERVATIONS,

Upon the Answer of both Houses to the sayd Petition; being of generall use for all Petitions of this kinde.

Printed in the Yeare, 1648.

[redacted]

To the Right Honourable the LORDS *and* COMMONS *assembled in Parliament at Westminster.*

The humble Petition of the Knights, Gentry, Clergy, and Commonalty of the County of Sussex: *Presented to both Houses upon Wednesday,* June 7. 1648.

Sheweth:

THAT the miserable effects of this civill Warre under which our Country, and three Kingdoms have long and heavily groaned, are the onely motives of these our humble and fervent desires hereby propounded to your Honours.

1. That our most gracious Soveraigne Lord King *Charles* may be speedily and honourably received to a safe Treaty with the two Houses of Parliament, for the firme setling of a well-grounded Peace, both in *Church* and *Commonwealth*, as also of his owne just Rights, and of the Rights of Parliament.

2. That the Arrears of the Army under the command of the Lord *Fairfax* may be payd, and the Army with all expedition disbanded.

3. That according to the fundamentall constitutions of this Kingdome, we may be governed by the known Laws of this Kingdome, and not otherwise.

4. That from henceforth our estates and goods may be freed from all Taxes and Impositions.

5. That no garisons within the said County be any longer continued, and that the Ordinance and Ammunition taken from the Sea Townes may be returned, for the better defence of them and the whole County from forraigne Invasions.

We therefore (as the well-affected Counties have already) do humbly pray you to yeeld a present condescention to our humble desires, that so our *differences and divisions* may be happily composed, all mis-understandings betweene Prince and People timely removed, his Majesty (according to our solemne Engagement) rendred glorious, both King and Kingdome returned to their pristine dignity and splendor at home and abroad, and your selves thereby merit the gratefull and universall acclamations of good and faithful Patriots.

And your Petitioners shall pray, &c.

The Answer of the LORDS and COMMONS assembled in *Parliament*, to the Petition of the Knights Gentry, Clergy, and Commonalty of the County of *Sussex*.

Die Veneris 9. Iunii, 1648.

THe *Lords have commanded me to returne thankes to the County of* Sussex *for the good affections which they have expressed to the Parliament and Kingdome, and they take notice, and are well satisfied, with* the compliance of that County *to the directions of Parliament, in the way of the delivery of this their Petition. They have already made* some proceedings, which they hope may bring his Majesty to a safe Treaty *with the two Houses of Parliament, for the setling of a secure and well grounded peace, the which they will prosecute with all care and diligence. And they desire you to be assured, that they will use their utmost endeavours, that our* sad differences and divisions may be speedily and happily composed; that so the Lawes and Fundamentall Constitutions of this Kingdome may have their free course and full vigour: *Neither will they be wanting to contribute their utmost helpe for the freeing that County and the whole Kingdome* from all those Taxes and Impositions, that the necessity of the late Wars have occasioned, as soone as the safety of the Kingdome shall permit.

John Brown Cler. Parl.

Die Veneris 9. Junii, 1648.

THE *House being informed that divers Gentlemen of the County of* Sussex *were at the doore, they were called in, and Sir* William Celepepper *Barronet, presented a Petition in the name of the Knights, Gentlemen, Clergy and Commonalty of the said County; and after they were withdrawne, the Petition entituled* The humble Petition of the Knights, Gentlemen, Clergy and Commonalty of the County of Sussex, *was read. The Petitioners were againe called in, and Mr. Speaker by the command of the House, gave them this Answer.*

Gentlemen, *This House takes notice, and approves of the Petitioners* conformity *to their Declaration, in* the peaceable manner *of their addresses, and have under consideration* such meanes as are most conduceable to the speedy settlement of the peace of the Kingdome, and easing the Burdens of the people, *and had (by Gods assistance) made a further progresse therein, had not* some late Tumults and Commotions unhappily interrupted their proceedings.

Hen. Elsyng. Cler. Parl. D. Com.

Short

Short Observations upon the Answers of the two Houses to the Sussex *Petition.*

IN generall the answers are dilatory and delusory, as appeares by the particulars, for.

1. They say, *they have already made some proceedings which they hope may bring his Majestie to a safe treaty with the two Houses.* That is, they have resolved on three Propositions to be sent to, and to be assented unto by his Majesty, before they treat personally with Him.

1. That the Militia be settled upon the two Houses of Parliament to raise money and men upon us at pleasure, both which are destructive to the liberty and propriety of the Subject.

2. For setling Religion as the two Houses shall think fit; whereby as Sects and Schismes are already grown numerous; so heereafter they are like to be established amongus by a Law.

3. That their proceedings in the late war be justified. That is, that their usurpations upon the Crowne, the Lawes, and the Subjects be made by such an Act a precedent to all Posterity.

2. They say, *that they will use their utmost endeavours that our sad differences and divisions may be speedily composed, that so the Lawes and fundamentall constitutions of the Kingdome may have their free course and full vigour*; whereby it is evident that they take upon them an authority over our Lawes and fundamentall constitutions; and hence are risen those *sad differences and divisions amongst us*, by reason of their lawlesse, and arbitrary proceedings.

3. They say, *they will contribute their help for the freeing of the Kingdome from all those taxes, and impositions that the ne-*

cessities

ceſſities of the late warres have occaſioned, aſſeme as the ſafety of the Kingdome ſhall permit: and why was the late war undertaken, and yet proſecuted, but meerely for overthrowing Law, King, and Kingdome, and for theſe reaſons have they impoſed, and doe to this day impoſe and continue theſe heavy Taxes upon us? and all this they doe in truth, not for ſaving the Kingdome, but for preſerving and inriching themſelves.

4. They ſay, *They had made a further progreſſe in ſetling the Kingdome, had not ſome late Tumults and Commotions unhappily interrupted their proceedings.* That is, they had ſettled it in their owne way, *viz.* according to their owne Votes, and the votes of the Army, a Kingdome without a King, had not they been interrupted by the ſeverall Petitions from *Eſſex*, *Surry*, *Kent*, and *Suſſex*, who now are ſtiled Tumultuous, and their Addreſſes called Commotions; whereas heeretofore Tumults indeed have been raiſed and countenanced by them, and the Authors of them ſtiled their friends, becauſe they ſpake their ſence

The ſumme of the Houſes anſwers to all Counties Petitions.

The ſumme of all is this, our Taxes and Impoſitions muſt continue, ſo long as the war continues; and their illegall proceedings, ſo long as our *Diviſions* and *Differences* continue; and our Diviſions till there be a Perſonall Treaty: which Treaty the two Houſes never intend; if they did, they would not obſtruct it with Propoſitions as they doe derogatory to the Crowne, prejudiciall to the Kings cauſe, deſtructive to Religion, to the liberty and propriety of the Subject. By this ſumme of all it appeares, what all Counties who petition in this kinde are to truſt to.

Counties to petition no more.

Wherefore the people of this Kingdome are ſo to behave themſelves, that they be neither delayed nor deluded any longer; but are forthwith vigorouſly to proceed to reſcue their captivated King, whoſe life is every minute in danger by bloudy villaines and aſſaſſinates, and thereby reſtore and eſtabliſh their owne loſt Lawes, Liberties, Religion, and Properties.

FINIS.